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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/386,450 08/31/99 HOTTEN

G P564-9022

EXAMINER

ROMEO, D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1647

DATE MAILED:

08/01/00

HM12/0801
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/386,450

Applicant(s)

Hotten et al.

Examiner

David S. Romeo

Group Art Unit

1647



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 Aug 1999

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 1 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 2-10 and 13-24 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☒ Claims 2-10 and 13-24 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

Art Unit: 1647

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 13-15, 18, 21-24, drawn to a polypeptide and compositions
5 comprising same, classified in class 530, subclass 350.
 - II. Claims 16, 17, drawn to methods of treatment comprising administering a
polypeptide, classified in class 514, subclass 12.
 - III. Claims 10, 19, 20, drawn to an antibody that binds a polypeptide, classified in
class 530, subclass 387.1.
 - 10 IV. Claims 2-4, 7, drawn to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide, classified in
class 435, subclass 69.1.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the
15 product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the polypeptide could be used as an antigen for the production of antibodies or in an in vitro assay to detect agonists and antagonists thereto.

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The polypeptide of invention I is related to the antibody of Invention III by virtue of being the cognate antigen, necessary for the production of the antibody. Although the polypeptide and antibody are related due to the necessary steric complementarity of the two, they are distinct inventions because they are physically and functionally distinct chemical entities, and because the polypeptide can be used in another materially different process from the use for production of the antibody, such as in a pharmaceutical composition in its own right, or in assays for the identification of agonists or antagonists.

The polynucleotides of Invention IV are related to the polypeptides of Invention I by virtue of encoding same. The polynucleotide has utility for the recombinant production of the polypeptide in a host cell. Although the polynucleotide and polypeptide are related since the polynucleotide encodes the specifically claimed polypeptide, they are distinct inventions because they are physically and functionally distinct chemical entities, and the polypeptide product can be made by another and materially different process, such as by synthetic polypeptide synthesis or purification from the natural source. Further, the polynucleotide may be used for processes other than the production of the polypeptide, such as a nucleic acid hybridization assay.

The following pairwise combinations of products and methods are independent and distinct, wherein the respective products may neither be produced by, nor used in the respective methods: III and II; IV and II.

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The polynucleotide of invention IV and the antibody of Invention III are related by virtue of the polypeptide that is encoded by the polynucleotide and necessary for the production of the antibody. However, the polynucleotide itself is not necessary for antibody production and both are wholly different compounds having different compositions and functions. Therefore, these inventions are distinct.

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the searches required are not co-extensive, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

6. Claims 16, 17 are generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising methods of treating bone, methods of treating teeth, methods of treating cartilage, methods of treating connective tissues, methods of treating mucous membranes, methods of treating epithelium, methods of treating skin. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species, even though this requirement is traversed.

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Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission
5 may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Each of the species are independent and distinct, wherein each pair performs different functions, using different starting materials and/or process steps, and/or with different outcomes. Furthermore, the searches required are not co-extensive.

7. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an
10 election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

8. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any
15 amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David S. Romeo whose telephone number is (703) 305-4050. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 6:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

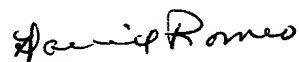
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Kunz, can be reached on (703) 308-4623.

Official papers filed by fax should be directed to (703) 308-4242.

5 Faxed draft or informal communications should be directed to the examiner at (703) 308-0294.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.


David Romeo
Primary Examiner
July 30, 2000

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